

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) An aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution comprising:

less than 50 wppm alkali metals, alkaline earth metals or combinations thereof in total, irrespective whether the alkali metals or alkaline earth metals are present in cationic or complex form;

less than 50 wppm of amines having a pK_B of less than 4.5 or the corresponding protonated compounds in total; and

at least 100 wppm anions or compounds that can dissociate to form anions in total, the wppm being based on the weight of hydrogen peroxide,

wherein the concentration of hydrogen peroxide is more than 50% by weight based on the total weight of the hydrogen peroxide solution.

17. (Original) The aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution of claim 16, wherein the concentration of hydrogen peroxide is more than 60% by weight based on the total weight of the hydrogen peroxide solution.

18. (Original) The aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution of claim 16, wherein the concentration of hydrogen peroxide is from 60 to 70% by weight by weight based on the total weight of the hydrogen peroxide solution.

19. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a hydrogen peroxide solution according to the anthraquinone loop process, said process comprising:

a) hydrogenating a working solution comprising an organic solvent or mixture of organic solvents and one or more active anthraquinone compounds to obtain a hydrogenated working solution,

b) oxidizing the hydrogenated working solution to form hydrogen peroxide,

c) extracting hydrogen peroxide with water to obtain extracted aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution,

d) stabilizing the extracted aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution,

e) concentrating the aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution to a concentration of hydrogen peroxide of at least 50% by weight based on the weight of the hydrogen peroxide solution to obtain a concentrated aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution comprising:

i) less than 50 wppm alkali metals, alkaline earth metals or combinations thereof in total, irrespective whether the alkali or alkaline earth metals are present in cationic or complex form;

ii) less than 50 wppm of amines having a pK_B of less than 4.5 or the corresponding protonated compounds in total; and

iii) at least 100 wppm anions or compounds that can dissociate to form anions in total,

said wppm being based on the weight of hydrogen peroxide

f) drying the working solution after extracting hydrogen peroxide, and

g) regenerating and purifying the working solution,

whereby during the entire process neither alkali or alkaline earth metals nor amines having a pK_B of less than 4.5 or compounds forming such amines during the process are introduced in amounts that result in amounts of

i) 50 wppm or more of alkali metals, alkaline earth metals or combinations thereof in total, irrespective whether the alkali or alkaline earth metals are present in cationic or complex form; or

ii) 50 wppm or more of amines having a pK_B of less than 4.5 or the corresponding protonated compounds in total;

in the resulting aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution, said wppm being based on the weight of hydrogen peroxide.

20. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 19, wherein

- the working solution is essentially free of organic nitrogen compounds,
- drying the working solution in step f) is conducted without using alkali or alkaline earth metal compounds, and
- regeneration of the working solution in step g) is done by treating with active aluminum oxide.

21. (Original) The process of claim 20, wherein drying is conducted by water evaporation in vacuum.

22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 20, wherein no further purification of the extracted aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution is carried out.

23. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 21, wherein no further purification of the extracted aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution is carried out.

24. (Original) The process of claim 19, wherein at least one base having a pK_B of at least 4.5 without containing alkali or alkaline earth metals is added in an amount resulting in at least 100 wppm of such bases or corresponding protonated compounds in total based on the weight of hydrogen peroxide in the final aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution.

25. (Original) The process of claim 24, wherein the base is selected from the groups consisting of organic amines and amides having a pK_B of at least 4.5, organic hydroxylamines having a pK_B of at least 4.5, ammonia and hydroxylamine.

26. (Original) The process of claim 25, wherein the base is ammonia.

27. (Original) The process of claim 24, wherein the base is added either during the preparation of the hydrogen peroxide solution or at any stage between preparation and final use of the hydrogen peroxide solution.